

## EVERGREEN WAY SE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING - July 31, 2008



On July 31, 2008 the City of Auburn Mayor and City staff met with residents of the Evergreen Way SE Neighborhood at the Lakeland Hills Community Center Building, 5801 Lakeland Hills Way SE, regarding speeding and traffic calming improvements.

**Staff in Attendance:** MAYOR PETE LEWIS, CHIEF JIM KELLY, DUANNA RICHARDS, KIRSTEN REYNOLDS, TIFFIN GOODMAN, CHRIS HANKINS AND SHELLY COLEMAN.

**Community Members in Attendance:** AIMEE LE, ALBERT V & WANDA PEARL, ANDY CAMERON, ANN HART, BARBARA ARBUTHNOT, BOB & AUDRIE PAIGE, C. KERCHER, CAROL GREEN, CHARLES HAMMEN, CHRISTI LEE, CHRISTOPHER STACTS, CHUCK & CHRIS THRASH, CONNIE SWANSON, COREYANN KHAN, CREIG AND SUE SUNDSTROM, DAVE & PATTY WASELL, DICK ROTH, DON & NANCY DALTON, DONA WEBER, DUANE HEROLD, FRANK SMITH, GREG NAKATA, HAROLD LADUKE, J.C. PHILLIPS, JAMES HEYEL, JANE WRIGHT, JEFFREY LAYACAN, JERRY CARPENTER, JIM & KAREN JESTER, JIM SEIBERT, JEANNE STRICKLAND, JOE & MARGE LONGO, KIM KITTILSBY, LEN STOLL, LEONARD TIMMONS, MARCIA HALL, MARY ELLEN NAKATA, MOIRA BAKER, MR. & MRS. MEINERT, PAUL JOHNSON, PAULA & BOD HAGSTROM, RUTH MARCARET, SALLY HANFT, SHIRLEY HANING, THOMAS WGHNAETA, WARRE & MARY EWER

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Mayor Lewis welcomed the audience and thanked everyone in the community for attending. The City received a petition regarding speeding issues along Evergreen Way SE so this meeting was called in response. Mayor Lewis introduced Dick Meinert, resident of the Palisades. Mr. and Mrs. Meinert spoke to the group regarding issues they have observed, including, but not limited to:

1. Speed limit signs not being visible. Northbound there is only one 25 mph sign and southbound there are two, but they're blocked visually by trees. Their suggestion was to cut back the trees so the speed limit signs would be visible.
2. There were child safety concerns. Many children access Evergreen Way SE through the pedestrian gates (nine gates total) and could get hurt if drivers do not slow down.
3. Speed bumps were proposed in four different locations along Evergreen Way SE to help slow traffic down.

➤ Mayor Lewis introduced staff present at the meeting and talked about how the Community Services Team has been doing outreach efforts in neighborhoods, such as this meeting. Mayor also discussed how neighborhood traffic calming projects get funded. A portion of the fees collected from PhotoSAFE enforcement go to the State and a portion to the City; when City Council passed the photo enforcement fees, they approved the lowest ticket charge possible. The goal was to stop the accidents, not increase revenue. The revenue from the City's portion goes toward covering the cost of the PhotoSAFE program; the Council asked that remaining funds be dedicated to traffic calming.

➤ Police Chief Jim Kelly spoke about his findings in the neighborhood via using the stealth stat machine. The stealth stat machine is invisible radar which has been conducted along Evergreen Way SE four times since April 2006. The majority of drivers were doing speeds of 30-35 mph and 100+ tickets have been issued since the petition was received. Chief Kelly stated most of the individuals speeding were from within the community. Patrols and enforcement will continue as traffic calming measures are worked on for the area. Mayor Lewis followed up with further discussion regarding the need for people to be courteous drivers. Another issue addressed was that the reported "youth on motorcycles" are not youth riders after all; they are adults who live in the community.

➤ Transportation Planner Tiffin Goodman spoke about the speed studies conducted and affirmed the majority of speeders that Chief Kelly spoke about previously are going at higher speeds because it feels comfortable to them. There are some physical changes that can be made to help people realize the need to slow down.

➤ Mayor Lewis opened the floor to residents and asked for audience participation; discussion included, but was not limited to, the following areas of concern.

### **Public Works:**

#### **Stop Signs, Traffic Lights and Cameras –**

- There were several comments regarding stop signs, including, but not limited to:
  - Stop signs have been the culprit in causing rear end accidents.
  - Many people don't come to a complete stop when heading down Lakeland Hills Way.

#### **Crosswalks and Speed Bumps –**

- There were several concerns about Lake Tapps Parkway and Lakeland Hills Way area.
  - Drivers do not stop for pedestrians, could the crosswalk be enhanced? Mayor Lewis said that to add stop lights requires meeting Federal traffic guidelines.
  - There were several complaints regarding the frequency and short length of time allowed to cross the Lake Tapps Parkway crosswalk.
  - The pedestrian signal heading towards The Rock does not show up right away. Mayor Lewis will have the signal checked to determine it is programmed accurately.

#### **Speeding –**

- Several reports were given about speeding and racing happening around 10 p.m. Several cars have been spotted meeting at Sunset Park. Mayor Lewis asked if anyone has called 911 to report the racing, only one person raised their hand. He explained the 911 system was specifically designed for these types of issues; residents should be calling to report these situations. Many residents were not aware they should call 911 for this type of issue.
- Mayor Lewis stated that these roads were built to be 30-35 mph; when the speed limit was this high speeds were up to 50-55 mph. Drivers need to maintain common courtesy; community policing and/or talking to neighbors can help enforce an overall responsibility.
- A suggestion came up to place mobile speeding cameras on Evergreen Way SE; Mayor Lewis explained that State law limits where they can be placed and the City could not put one there.
- One HOA wanted to know if they could purchase the smaller version of the speed tracker. Staff reported speed trailers cost approximately \$6,000-7,000 for a solar powered one.
- One resident asked if the City or HOAs could publish the names of the speeders or red light runners in the local newspaper. Mayor Lewis responded that cameras take pictures of cars and license plates, not the individual driving; State law does not allow this.
- Staff briefly talked about painting yellow lines on the road's surface and how this could help slow traffic down as an easy solution.
- Motorcyclists have been reported going as fast as possible directly after the stop sign located on 65<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Streets and Signage -**

- Lake Tapps Parkway and Lakeland Hills Way area – There was a report of a “U” turn sign being installed facing the wrong direction at the intersection.
- Mayor Lewis informed the group that a “C” curb will be installed to prevent left hand turns being made from the Town Center by Blockbuster Video onto Lake Tapps Parkway.

### **Utilities -**

- Water from Bonney Lake – residents wanted to know if Auburn would eventually be taking over the operation of water delivery. Mayor Lewis explained Bonney Lake has sued to keep the water rights to service this area.
- Auburn has partnered with the cities of Sumner and Bonney Lake in an attempt to purchase Lake Tapps. The City of Bellevue has also put in a bid; if they are successful there will be no lake level guarantee. Keeping track of what happens with this issue will continue to be a priority.

### **Transportation -**

- Public transportation – Mayor Lewis reported having a meeting with Sound Transit, Pierce Transit and King County Metro regarding several transportation issues. An agreement made through this partnership was to implement a shuttle service from Sunset Park to the Auburn transit station; another will provide an express bus route into Pierce County from Lakeland to the Tacoma Dome station. Sunset Park will be a short-term location for the shuttle service until another location can be determined. This service will start in Lakeland first then move to the Lea Hill community. Auburn will pay one third of the expense for this service.

### **Streets -**

- Lake Tapps Parkway and Lakeland Hills Way area –
  - Completion of Lake Tapps Parkway is supposed to be done by Pierce County. Residents expressed concern this needs to be completed because of the large residential growth in the area. Mayor Lewis gave some background on the issue; the City of Pacific was being charged far too much for their portion of the project and was unable to do so. Auburn will continue to push for the Parkway to be completed. The best thing residents can do is contact their Pierce County representatives stating they want to see the Parkway finished; Legislators will listen to voters before they listen to government.
- R Street is scheduled to be repaved in 2009.
- One resident reported they would like to see a traffic circle instead of more traffic lights installed along Lakeland Hills Way if it's warranted in the future.
- Kersey Update –
  - Mayor Lewis talked about the conditions required of Kersey III before they could build houses, including a sewer line down Kersey; this was the reason why Kersey Way had to be closed. They were also required to put in a water line from Lakeland Hills Way to the foot of the Lake Tapps Parkway and a pump station to pump the water up the hill. This project was a huge expense but because Lakeland is currently on a well system the developers had to have this done. With the completion of this pipeline and pump, Lakeland will no longer be solely on a well system.
  - The road is scheduled to be reopened to traffic in August.
  - Staff estimated the through road from Lakeland Hills Way to the Kersey development will open in early spring 2009.

### **Police Topics:**

- 911 – Mayor Lewis informed the residents that Auburn shares ownership of the 911 system; calls go into a dispatch center so residents shouldn't worry about tying up the phone line when making non-emergency calls. Residents were advised to call 911 for any emergency or non-emergency issue such as street lights out, stop lights out, missing stop signs, fireworks, loose dogs, sewer backups, water leaks, etc.
- Police - calls are prioritized with threat to life or property first. But residents should call all incidences in to the 911 system so there is a record of the activity.

- Mayor Lewis clarified the notion that if police officers write enough tickets they will pay for their salaries. This is absolutely not true; only 40% of the ticket revenue goes to Auburn, 60% goes to the State. When there is an increase in tickets the result is more court clerk hours and administration costs.
- Police Sub Stations –
  - Auburn does not have sub stations because the police cars have all the computer equipment necessary so they can be out on the streets.
  - There are 114 dedicated officers currently on staff who are spread over three shifts and a minimum of six cars to cover the entire city during any one shift.
  - Chief Kelly commented that when the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) opens their new station Auburn police will have a touch and go work space included.
  - Ground breaking for the VRFA station in the Lakeland Hills area should happen in 2010.
- Click it and ticket enforcement has been implemented and will continue to be a priority for Police.
- There is an issue with parents cutting around school bus drivers on Evergreen Way SE. Bus drivers can report people who drive around when lights are flashing. Mayor Lewis will check with the Auburn School District on this.
- In the gated communities people speed in through the out gate to save time waiting for the gate to open. Community policing, as previously suggested, could help resolve this problem.

#### **Parks:**

- Improvements to the Lakeland Hills Community Center Park are starting to take place.

#### **Planning:**

- There are no plans to include the Estates housing development as an annexation area to Auburn.

#### **Other Topics:**

- Seattle's new charge for grocery bags is not planned for Auburn.
- The City will connect with the HOA sub associations to help encourage more community policing in the neighborhoods. Residents living (on the private streets) can give citizen warnings. The HOAs would like to see the City do more outreach to these communities.

#### **In Closing - Point of Contact:**

- Please contact the Community Services Team if there are any further questions or concerns, or if you're just not sure who to call at the City. Contact information for the Community Services Division is:
  - Community Services Manager, Duanna Richards (253) 931-3099 or [\*\*drichards@auburnwa.gov\*\*](mailto:drichards@auburnwa.gov)
  - Community Services Project Assistant, Kirsten Reynolds (253) 876-1964 or [\*\*kreynolds@auburnwa.gov\*\*](mailto:kreynolds@auburnwa.gov)